Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Copies of the letters referred to and of the reply dated 30th June 1927 are placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix VIII.*)

The letter of the 20th March was referred to the Superintendent of Excise Revenue. He replied to say that no differential treatment between member and member was shown by him, nor did he fail to accord proper treatment to Mr. Mathew.

Government do not consider it necessary to place their whole file on the table.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In reply to the question dated, 30th January 1927, the Member answered 'it is a matter of opinion'. May I know, Sir, what the answer is ?

Mr. T.K. Krishna Menon.—Sir, the question time is over.

President.—We shall finish this question and stop.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I refer to question No. 46. To my question, whether the members were given differential treatment the answer given is "it is a matter of opinion".

President.—That was his reply.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I say there was differential treatment, and the Member says it is a matter of opinion. The answer is not correct.

President.—What should be the correct answer ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I should get an answer from the Government.

President.—The Government thinks that the answer given is correct.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is a matter of opinion. It is in that aspect I am putting that answer to which I have been referred to.

President.—He says now also it is a matter of opinion. On a matter of opinion, no supplementary question should be put.

Is there no proper understanding ?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not want to take up the valuable time of the Council.

47. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether any of the members of the Committee addressed on January 5, 1927, a letter to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman and the Convener of the Excise Committee complaining about the working of the Committee ; and, if so,

(b) whether a copy of it will be printed and placed on the table;

(c) whether the Superintendent of Excise Revenue returned it to the member in writing "I am not aware of any rule

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that letter sent by members of the Excise Committee should be sent through me; I, therefore, return herewith the said letter to you;

(d) whether there is any rule that letters or petitions should not be sent to the Diwan through the Superintendent of Excise; and, if so, a copy of that rule be placed on the table ;

(e) whether the Excise Superintendent is not forwarding letters or petitions to the Diwan; and, if so,

(f) what is the reason for refusing to forward a letter sent by a member of the Committee appointed by the Government ;

(g) on the refusal of the Excise Superintendent to forward the letter to the Diwan, whether the member addressed the Chairman of the Committee on the 14th January 1927, enclosing the letter referred to above addressing it to the Diwan through the Chairman of the Committee ; and, if so ,

(h) whether the Chairman made any enquiry in the matter; and, if so,

(i) what was its nature and result;

(j) whether the Chairman forwarded the enclosed letter to the Diwan as required; and, if not, why not ;

(k) whether the Chairman acknowledged the receipt of it or sent any reply to it to the complainant ;

(l) whether he had not requested to favour him with a reply and had not written as follows:—

" If no satisfactory explanation is forthcoming from the Convener of the Excise Committee, and if the Chairman of the Committee and the Government are not willing to take any step in this matter, I beg to humbly state that the only course left open to me, as a member of the Committee, is to put in my resignation of the membership of the Committee;" and if the letter has not been acknowledged or replied ;

(m) why was it not done so?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Please see answer to question No. 46.

(c) Yes.

(d) No such rule.

(e) Yes, in the case of petitions received from the subordinates of the department.

(f) Because the member is not a subordinate of the department.

(g) Yes.

(h), (i), (j), (k), (l) and (m). A copy of the Chairman's letter dated 8th Edavam 1102 is appended. (*Vide Appendix IX*

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*My letter dated 5th January 1927. When it was returned by the Excise Superintendent with the above remarks, I forwarded it to you through the Chairman of the Excise Committee with the above letter for taking the necessary action in the matter.

Letter dated 21st February 1927 from Mr. K. T. Mathew to the Diwan of Cochin through the Chairman of the Excise Committee.

"I have the honour to bring to your attention that I have not been supplied with a readable copy of the memorandum prepared by the Superintendent of Excise for the consideration of the members of the Excise Committee, in spite of the request I made to the Excise Superintendent to supply me with clearly typed copy of the momorandum, as I find it very difficult to read the copy of it sent to me. I request you to arrange for sending me a well-written or typed copy of the memorandum so that I may be able to do justice to the work entrusted to me as a member of the Committee; and in conclusion I may submit that if such small facilities, as is now requested for, are not afforded, I regret to point out that I do not think that I could do useful work as a member of the Excise Committee."

Letter dated 30th June 1927, P. No. 559/02, from the Ag. Secretary to the Diwan to Mr. K. T. Mathew.

"With reference to your letter, dated 7th May 1927, I am directed to inform you that the points raised therein and in the enclosures to your letter are for the Chairman of the Excise Committee to consider and dispose of."

APPENDIX IX.

(Vide answer to Question No. 47).

Letter, dated 8th Edavam 1102, from the Chairman of the Cochin Excise Committee to the Secretary to the Diwan of Cochin.

"With reference to your letter, R. O. C. No. 2427/1102, dated 14th May 1927, I have the honour to inform you that a letter was received by me from Mr. K. T. Mathew, but I did not forward it to the Diwan as such a letter need not have been sent through me. Prior to the receipt of that letter Mr. Mathew had sent another letter on the same subject to the Diwan direct and that had been forwarded to me for disposal. Subsequent to these Mr. Mathew personally delivered to me another letter, on the same subject, for transmission to the Diwan, and that was returned by me on the ground that he should send such letters to the Diwan direct, and he therefore took it back and addressed it to me changing the address. In the course of the conversation I believe—if my memory does not fail me—that I informed Mr. Mathew, that I did not forward the letter referred to in the reference with the reason thereof, and I did not think it therefore necessary to do anything further in the matter. The letter in question is preserved in my file."

APPENDIX X.

(Vide answer to Question No. 48).

Copy of letter C. No. 24/01, dated 19th Kanni 1102 sent to Mr. K. T. Mathew, B. A. & B. L., by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

'With reference to your card dated 29th September, acknowledging the receipt of a copy of the memorandum prepared by me, I have the honour to inform you that the copy was examined by me and found to be readable or else it would not have been sent to you. If, however, you still require a fresh copy, I shall be glad to supply you with one, provided you return the copy already sent."

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